



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2006

New Elementary School in the Eastvale Area of Corona

We invite you to review and comment on a plan submitted by the Corona Norco Unified School District. The plan is required to prevent build up of methane gas from collecting in and under the buildings at the Rosa Parks Elementary School site. The school site is located at 6701 Harrison Avenue in Riverside County, north of the City of Corona, California.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. We serve as the lead agency in overseeing the investigation and cleanup at the site. Our goal is to safeguard the public health and protect the environment.

The purpose of this environmental process is to ensure that the school sites would provide a safe environment for students, faculty and staff. The goals of the current plan include: identifying and defining environmental impacts from past uses, evaluating potential risks to humans from exposure to chemicals, and determining the appropriate cleanup plan.

Public Comment Period April 11, 2006 and ending May 12, 2006

A 30-day public comment period will be held to comment on the cleanup plan for Rosa Parks Elementary School. We invite you to submit your comments/concerns during this time. DTSC will consider and respond to your comments before a final decision is made.

Please mail or email comments no later than 5 p.m. on May 12, 2006 to:

Mr. Steven Hariri, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630.
Email: shariri@dtsc.ca.gov

History and background of the site

The site occupies 10 acres. The area was undeveloped until 1953. From 1969 to 2005 the area was part of the 58 acre Van der Stelt dairy which included animal corrals, a barn, a house, and equipment storage buildings. The land next to the dairy was used for farming. The Corona-Norco Unified School District purchased the property and is responsible for the construction of the elementary school.

Results of the investigation

A Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the school site was finalized in May 2005. The site was investigated for organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), heavy metals and methane. Results showed methane as the only chemical of concern identified at the site.

The Supplemental Site Investigation, which was finalized in December 2005, confirmed the elevated levels of methane. Amounts of the methane found in some areas on the school site are elevated and will require action.

Understanding methane

Methane is a natural result of the decomposition or breakdown of organic material. It is a non-carcinogenic, colorless, odorless and flammable gas. Exposure to methane gas does not pose a direct health risk. However, methane present in high concentrations may enter the building through flooring materials or cracks, collect under buildings and in closed spaces, and then cause a fire or explosion hazard.

Cleanup options

The proposed removal actions were screened and evaluated on effectiveness, feasibility and cost. Five options were considered for the methane removal at the site.

1. No action.
2. Digging up and removal of dirt.
3. Monitoring only.
4. Methane collection and passive venting system, with monitoring.

5. Methane collection and passive venting system with membrane, with monitoring.

Proposed cleanup method

The proposed cleanup plan, also known as a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), prepared in October 2005, evaluated possible removal action/mitigation systems. The removal actions were evaluated by their effectiveness, feasibility, and cost.

Under the buildings

Option 5, is the proposed cleanup for under the buildings. This system combines a barrier under the building that methane can not pass through and vent system. It prevents gas from collecting inside or under the school buildings. If approved, the barrier and venting system is to be installed during the construction of the school. Inspection and oversight of the system installation will be conducted by our department.

Grass play areas with moderate to high methane

The proposed action in the grass areas with moderate to high amounts of methane is Option 3, monitoring only.

Grass play areas with low to no methane

The proposed removal action in grass areas with low to no methane is Option 1, no action.

Maintenance over time

Upon completion of the installation, a licensed engineer experienced in methane systems will certify the construction. In addition, an Operation and Maintenance Plan will require regular monitoring and inspections to make certain the system is functioning properly.

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is considered exempt since DTSC has found no evidence that the installation of a passive methane venting system will have a significant negative environmental impact.



Site Location

Next steps

Prior to making a final decision on the proposed Rosa Parks Elementary School site RAW, DTSC will receive comments during the 30-day public comment period that begins on April 11, 2006. Comments may be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Steven Hariri, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630.

After the public comment period, DTSC will read and consider all of the submitted comments prior to approval of the RAW. If the RAW is approved, the mitigation system will be put in place during construction of the school. A Removal Action Completion Report will be prepared and submitted to DTSC for review and approval upon completion of the construction activities.

For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Information repositories

The draft RAW, CEQA, and other project documents are available for review at:

Corona-Norco Unified School District Office
2820 Clark Avenue
Norco Ca. 92860
Monday – Friday: 9pm-5pm

Norco Public Library
3954 Old Hamner Road
Norco, CA 92860-1270
Mon., Wed., and Thurs.: 10pm-6pm
Tues.: 10am-8pm
Saturday: 10am-4pm
Friday and Sunday: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5337 or (714) 484-5336

For more information

RAW or Notice of Exemption please contact the following agency staff:

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Cypress Regional Office
714.484.5338
Toll free: 1-866-495-5651
Email: jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Steven Hariri
DTSC Project Manager
Cypress Regional Office
714.484.5332
Email: shariri@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please call

Ms. Sandra Friedman
DTSC Public Information Officer
714.484.5383
Email: sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to hearing impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service 888.877.5378 to reach the Public Participation Specialist.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

postage

INSIDE:

Important information on Rosa Parks Elementary School Site Cleanup

CONTENIDO:

Información importante sobre la Limpieza de el Sitio Escolar Elemental de el Sureste

COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the **Draft Removal Action Workplan** for the Rosa Parks Elementary School please fill out the information below and mail to DTSC in the enclosed envelope by **May 12, 2006**. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments when the Final Removal Action Workplan is issued.

You may use this sheet to:

- **send us your comments**
- **be added to or taken off the mailing list**

___ Please take me off the mailing list

☐ Please add me to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Phone number (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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